# 100-Year Floodplains Based Upon Best Available Data

**State of California
Department of Water Resources**

**Floodplain Management Branch
Floodplain Mapping Section**

**State of California
Best Available Mapping**

**November 2009**

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These maps do not replace existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulatory floodplain maps. For more information on the FEMA regulatory maps, please contact FEMA directly. The intent of the attached maps is to identify potential flood risks that may warrant further study and consideration in land use decision making. The floodplains shown represent areas likely to experience flooding during a storm event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. The 100-Year storm event and resulting flooded areas are based on the best available floodplain information and may not identify all areas subject to flooding. Agencies should use these maps for planning purposes including updating the land use element, housing element, conservation element and safety element of city and county general plans. Assembly Bill 162 requires that flood risks be incorporated into these elements of the community's general plan when a general plan is updated.

The 100-Year floodplains are defined based on information developed from the FEMA Effective Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM), FEMA Effective Q3 Flood Data[1], FEMA Preliminary DFIRM, Department of Water Resources (DWR) Awareness Mapping, and regional floodplain studies.

[1] FEMA Effective Q3 Flood Data was updated to reflect Effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps dated 04/17/1996 to 05/05/2003. These updates do not consider Letters of Map Changes.

The floodplain maps are subject to change and may be updated periodically. As information is updated, the latest floodplain maps will be posted on the following website: http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/lrafmo/fmb/fes/best_available_maps/

The definition for each element of the maps is provided below:

**Federal Levee Centerline** – Federal levee are Flood Control Works (Levees/Flood Protection Projects) built and maintained by the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or are locally maintained. In addition, these projects are included in the USACE Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) program, and are automatically incorporated into the USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP).

**Non-Federal Levee Centerline** – Non-Federal levees are levees that are not built by USACE. These facilities are any man-made facility that alters the direction of the natural flow path. The location of the facilities shown was developed from various sources of information that included digital orthophoto maps and United States Geological Service (USGS) 1:24,000 quadrangle maps.

**River / Stream Centerline** – This data was obtained from the current USGS National Hydrography Dataset

**County Boundary** –The county boundaries were acquired from the California Spatial Information Library. County boundaries for areas inside of the Sacramento – San Joaquin Valley are not shown because these areas are not part of this mapping effort.

**100–Year Floodplains** – These floodplains represent the combination of the "FEMA Effective Floodplains" and the other available floodplain data.

**FEMA Effective Floodplains** – This data is comprised of the FEMA Effective 100-Year floodplain maps and FEMA Effective Q3 flood data. These maps illustrate regulatory floodplains that are administrated by FEMA for flood insurance purposes.

**FEMA Preliminary Floodplains –** These 100-Year floodplains are developed from FEMA Preliminary DFIRM data. This data is currently listed as preliminary and is not a regulatory floodplain.

**DWR Awareness Floodplains** – These 100-Year floodplains are developed by DWR through approximate assessment procedures and are located in areas that are not currently mapped by FEMA. These floodplains are not regulatory floodplains.

**Regional Floodplain Studies** – The 100-Year regional floodplains are developed by local agencies as an additional tool in understanding potential flood hazards currently not mapped as a regulated floodplain.

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[1] FEMA Effective Q3 Flood Data was updated to reflect Effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps dated 04/17/1996 to 05/05/2003. These updates do not consider Letters of Map Changes.

# 100-Year Floodplains Based Upon Best Available Data

The best available floodplain maps for the State of California were developed utilizing the best available floodplain data. There are 40 counties outside the Sacramento – San Joaquin Valley Watershed. Floodplain maps were developed for each county illustrating 100-Year floodplains. The 100-Year floodplains were overlaid on USGS 100K quadrangle maps obtained from the California Spatial Information Library. The USGS 100K quadrangle maps were created on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929. The 100-Year floodplains were created from various geographic coordinates. However, some floodplains were re-aligned to match the USGS 100K quadrangle maps. The sources of best available floodplain data corresponding to each county is identified in the Floodplain Matrix Table.

**Floodplain Matrix Table**

| County | 100-Year Floodplains FEMA Effective DFIRM | 100-Year Floodplains FEMA Preliminary DFIRM | 100-Year Floodplains FEMA Q3 | 100-Year Floodplains DWR Awareness Mapping | 100-Year Floodplains Regional Floodplain Studies |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alameda | X | | | X | |
| Alpine | | | | X | |
| Contra Costa | X | | | X | |
| Del Norte | X | | | X | |
| El Dorado | X | | | X | |
| Fresno | X | X | | X | |
| Humboldt | | X | X | X | |
| Imperial | X | | | X | |
| Inyo | | | X | X | |
| Kern | X | | | X | |
| Kings | X | | | X | |
| Lake | X | | | X | |
| Lassen | | X | X | X | |
| Los Angeles | X | | | X | |
| Marin | X | | | X | |
| Mendocino | | X | X | X | |
| Modoc | | X | X | X | |
| Mono | | X | X | X | |
| Monterey | X | | | X | |
| Napa | X | | | X | |
| Nevada | X | | | X | |
| Orange | X | | | X | |
| Placer | | | X | X | |
| Riverside | X | | | X | X |
| San Benito | X | | | X | |
| San Bernardino | X | | | X | |
| San Diego | X | | | X | |
| San Francisco | | X | | | |
| San Luis Obispo | X | | | X | |
| San Mateo | | X | X | X | |
| Santa Barbara | X | | | X | |
| Santa Clara | X | | | X | |
| Santa Cruz | X | | | X | |
| Sierra | | X | X | X | |
| Siskiyou | | X | X | X | |
| Solano | X | | | X | |
| Sonoma | X | | | X | |
| Trinity | X | | | X | |
| Tulare | X | | | X | |
| Ventura | X | | | X | |